

**Region 1****Hot Topics:****Acting Regional Administrator Szaro Presents Mystic River Watershed Report Card**

On June 26, ARA Szaro provided opening remarks at the Mystic Report Card Event highlighting progress made in the river's main stem and acknowledging challenges in the smaller streams and tributaries. The most significant grade change from "F" to "C+" was in the Island End River which was a direct result of removal of illicit discharges. Other attendees included, the Mayors of Somerville and Medford, Town Managers from Arlington and Winchester, Deputy Commissioner of MASS DEP, Executive Director of Mystic River Watershed Association and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. This annual event is now in its 12th year and serves to highlight bacterial contamination levels in the Mystic River Watershed.

**Region 1 Provides Public Notice on Vineyard Wind**

On Jun 28, Region 1 will public notice the draft permit for the Vineyard Wind offshore windfarm. Vineyard Wind is proposing to construct and operate an 800 MW windfarm approximately 14 miles southeast of Martha's Vineyard. The Region will hold a public hearing on the draft permit in the City of New Bedford on August 1.

**Region 1 Holds Sustainable Materials Management Web Academy Webinar**

On June 20, Region 1 staff facilitated the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Web Academy Webinar: *Introduction to EPA's Planning for Natural Disaster Debris Guidance* featuring EPA HQ staff. The webinar hosted 565 participants from federal, state, local governments, the private sector, NGO and institutions. This guidance, released in April, updated the 2008 version.

**Follow-up Public Meeting Held at Coakley Landfill**

On June 25, Region 1 and NHDES held a public meeting at the Bethany Church in Greenland, NH as a follow-up to the June 5 Office of Inspector General (OIG) listening session. Region 1 and NHDES staff provided information on the background of the site, private well sampling completed, and on-going investigations such as: bedrock groundwater investigation, stormwater runoff investigation, and fish tissue sampling.

**Region 1 Responds to Chloropicrin Release in Torrington, CT**

On June 23, an incident occurred involving the release of chloropicrin, an irritant similar to tear gas, in a mixed-use commercial/residential building. Chloropicrin vials stored on site were accidentally broken while being moved resulting in the release. During World War I, chloropicrin was used as a chemical warfare agent because of its irritant chemical characteristics. The Torrington Fire Department and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) responded to the scene and evacuated the building. CT DEEP has hired a contractor and has initiated clean-up and ventilation of the building. Region 1 staff has integrated into Incident Command and is developing a plan to clear residential units within the building for re-occupancy. The CT DEEP mobile laboratory will be used to conduct on-site analysis.

**Region 2****Hot Topics:****U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Case About Puerto Rico Oversight Board**

On 6/19, the U.S. Supreme Court granted petitions for *certiorari* filed by various parties seeking the Court's review of the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit's 2/19 decision in *Aurelius Investment, et al. v. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, et al.* – the case in which the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit: (i) ruled the process laid out by the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) for the appointment of members of the Puerto Rico Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) is invalid because it does not comply with the Appointments Clause of the U.S. Constitution; but (ii) declined to invalidate the actions already taken by the FOMB. Relying on the “de facto officer doctrine,” the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit reasoned reversing the FOMB's actions would have “negative consequences for the many, if not thousands, of innocent third-parties who have relied on the Board's actions until now” and would “likely introduce further delay into a historic debt restructuring process that was already turned upside down” by “the ravage of hurricanes.” Were the Supreme Court to affirm the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit's decision on the Appointments Clause issue but reverse the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit on the de facto officer doctrine issue, it could throw into disarray the Puerto Rico financial restructuring process.

**Gowanus Canal Superfund Site, Brooklyn, NY**

RA Lopez and the Region 2 team met with NYCDEP Commissioner Sapienza and team to discuss NYC's proposal to amend the approved plan for the Gowanus Canal to replace treatment tanks with a tunnel. The RA and Region 2 team currently are engaged in intense deliberations on the issue.

**Newark, NJ Drinking Water Sample Analysis Update**

The results of the analysis of drinking water samples from the third of three homes on the Wanaque-served side of Newark Water Department became available last week. Similar to the samples from the other two Wanaque homes, no lead levels exceeded the 15 ppb action level.

**Clean Air Act Violations of Kearney, NJ Landfill**

On 6/24, Region 2 issued to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) a finding of violation pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA) for violations related to its ownership and operation of the Keegan Landfill in Kearny, NJ. In 4/19, responding to citizen odor complaints and the NJDEP's request for assistance, Region 2 conducted an on-site inspection and an investigation of the landfill. Region 2 found the landfill is and has been, since 2009, in violation of the Landfill New Source Performance Standards and the operating permit requirements under CAA Title V. NJDEP is concurrently issuing a notice of violation for other violations under state environmental protection laws and, because the state has an EPA-approved Title V permitting program, NJDEP has informed Region 2 it will incorporate the CAA violations into its state enforcement action.

**Saint Gobain Performance Plastics Superfund Site, Hoosick, NY**

As a follow-up to the large-group monthly call earlier this month, Mayor Allen contacted ORD and asked if they could discuss with him in more detail the methods employed for the stack-testing by ORD. A call was held on 6/25 and went well. ORD was able to respond to Mayor Allen's questions about the air-sampling methods. A representative from NYDEC air program was on the call. An IRM to prevent the migration of contaminated groundwater from the eastern and southern boundaries of the McCaffrey Street property (using existing wells) to the municipal water supply wellfield is underway

with the off-site fabrication of the treatment system. Civil construction work at McCaffrey Street also is underway. It is anticipated the system will be functioning by the end of summer. It is anticipated that an alternate water supply alternatives document will be submitted by late 6/19. A ROD for the alternate water supply is anticipated in 12/19. A ROD for the entire site is anticipated in 5/20. A ROD for air deposition is anticipated in 1/21.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

**RA Lopez to Attend LULAC Convention in Milwaukee**

On 7/9, RA Lopez will be a featured speaker at the EPA Forum at the LULAC Convention in Milwaukee, WI.

**RA Lopez to Visit to the Oneida Nation**

RA Lopez will travel to the Oneida Nation on 7/18 to meet with Ray Halbritter, representative, and other Council members – followed by a tour of the community.

**Region 3**  
Hot Topics:**Philadelphia Energy Solutions Explosion and Fire**

Region 3 provided air monitoring and sampling assistance to the Philadelphia Fire Department at the explosion and fire effecting the Philadelphia Energy Solutions facility in southwest Philadelphia. The explosion and fire initiated sometime around 4:00 in the morning of June 21 involving propane and butane. The fire burned throughout the day during which EPA provided assistance with air monitoring at the perimeter and with sampling of ponded water. Region 3 was in communication with the City, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania DEP, the ATSDR, and the facility during the incident while evaluating environmental issues and health concerns. No elevated readings were detected at the perimeter or within the community.

**RA Servidio Signs Final Action to Remove Requirements for the Sale of Summertime Gasoline Formulation in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

This week, Region 3 completed an expedited process to remove a gasoline formulation requirement from Allegheny County portion of the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area. RA Servidio signed a final action to remove the requirement (which was enacted in 2001) from the Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan (SIP), following a request from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), after both agencies were directed to remove the program by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in their 2014 session. However, the timing of ACHD's removal of the program this Spring, just prior to the summer regulatory season that kicked off June 1 at retail stations, has created some confusion with industry and motorists in the area. Further, given the small program area, gasoline supply availability has been a problem -- compounded by a recent gasoline distribution pipeline failure in the area. EPA has twice granted emergency fuel waivers to the area to allow industry to sell non-compliant gasoline to ease potential supply shortages. The first extended from the start of the summer season until June 17, and the second extended the waiver until July 1. EPA's signature of the final rule to remove the program from the SIP is the final step in the process of switching from the local fuel blend to federal fuel blends that apply to surrounding regions. This final rule will take effect immediately upon our final rule being published in the *Federal Register*.

**Buckeye/Laurel Petroleum Pipeline Repair**

Substantial progress was made during the week of June 17, 2019 on the Buckeye/Laurel petroleum pipeline repair project. The pipeline supplies much of the fuel to Allegheny County and underlies the multilayer cap at the Ohio River Park Superfund Site in Neville Island, Pennsylvania. Buckeye welded a replacement section of pipeline, conducted x-ray testing, applied pipeline coating, and air pressure tested the pipeline early in the week. EPA was involved in determining a plan for placement of excavation excess material, replacement of the clay cap and HDPE liner, and installation of the drainage layer system. The HDPE liner repair was completed by the end of the week and repairs to the geocomposite/drainage layer continued into the weekend. Site grading and restoration is planned for the week of June 24.

**EPA Submits to Court a Certified Index of the Administrative Record for EPA's Approval of Maryland's 2018 303(d) List**

On June 17, EPA filed a limited certified index to the administrative record for Maryland's 2018 list. This is a result of a 2016 challenge to EPA's approval of Maryland's 2012 303(d) list of impaired waters due to the removal of 139 waterbody-pollutant combinations identified as impaired and requiring a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). These waterbody-pollutant combinations received a TMDL under the EPA-established 2010 Chesapeake Bay TMDLs, but the plaintiffs, EarthJustice (on behalf of a group Chesapeake Bay Waterkeepers), allege that the TMDLs are not protective of "local" water quality; therefore, the waters should not be removed from the list. EPA disagrees because (1) there is no requirement that a state look behind every TMDL every two years when preparing its list; and (2) the record amply demonstrates that the TMDLs established in connection with the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs are protective of all applicable water quality standards. Because each biennial list supersedes the previous list, plaintiffs amended their complaint to cover the recently-approved 2018 list. Both parties agreed that further briefing is unnecessary.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following events and meetings scheduled:

- July 2 Brownfields Grant Announcement, be hosted by Erie County Economic Development at the Erie Bolt site, Erie, PA

## **Region 4**

### Hot Topics:

#### **Oak Ridge Reservation (Oak Ridge, TN)**

Key Message: Deputy Under Secretary Cabbage provided additional information to the Administrator in support of DOE's position on the EMDF Focused Feasibility Study dispute. Regional management and staff are currently preparing for a pre-brief scheduled on July 8<sup>th</sup> with OECA and OLEM, in support of a briefing with the Administrator on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Petroleum Products Corp. (Pembroke Park, FL)**

Key Message: The Petroleum Products Corp. Superfund Site has been added to both the *Administrator's Emphasis List* and *\$50M Decisions List*. The ROD for OU2 is scheduled for May 2020. Estimated costs are between \$50M and \$60M for soil removal and disposal and building demolition. The Site is currently occupied by a commercial/industrial warehouse complex and comprises of concerns related to "takings" issues and moving or closing current business operations.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Superfund Redevelopment Initiative Anniversary Press Event – On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Region 4 Administrator Walker will hold a press amplification event regarding the anniversary of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative. The event will be held at the Cecil Field Superfund site in Jacksonville, FL. Jacksonville, FL. Open Press.

Proposed Rule for Mobile ODMDS published in the Federal Register on June 25, 2019 with a 45-day comment period ending on August 9, 2019.

Pepper Steel and Alloys Superfund Site (FL) achieved SWRAU status on June 26, 2019. Additionally, Region 4 has increased target from 5 to 10 for FY19.

Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the C-400 Removal Notification SEC level dispute – June 28, 2019

Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis SEC level dispute – June 28, 2019

## **Region 5**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **Terre Haute, Ind., in Attainment for 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS**

**Key Message:** EPA and Indiana will announce that the Terre Haute area now meets federal air quality standard for sulfur dioxide

In 2013, the Terre Haute area was designated as nonattainment for the 2010 primary 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). Since then, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) worked collaboratively with EPA to reduce air pollution in the area. Major SO<sub>2</sub> reductions came from facility unit retirements, operational limits, and fuel switches from coal to natural gas. With this, SO<sub>2</sub> emissions within Terre Haute declined by 99.7% between the nonattainment year (2011) and the attainment year (2017). EPA has now determined that the Terre Haute area has attained the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, based on the most recent three years of certified air quality data. People in the Terre Haute area are now breathing cleaner air.

#### **Non-Profit Group Releases Results of Franklin, Ind., Vapor Intrusion Study**

**Key Message:** EPA is reviewing a report released on June 26 by non-profit Edison Wetlands Association about vapor intrusion in Franklin, Ind. After this review is complete, EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management will coordinate on appropriate next steps.

EPA and IDEM are coordinating their efforts to respond to contaminated sites in Franklin and Johnson County, Ind. In Franklin, IDEM has identified several sites and is responding through its State Cleanup Program. EPA's current efforts in Franklin are focused on the Amphenol site, which is being cleaned up under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The agencies have conducted extensive sampling of the air, groundwater, soil, sewers, and in people's homes. Although contamination has been detected, the contaminated areas are isolated (not connected underground via groundwater).

New Jersey-based EWA has worked with a local environmental consultant to conduct several rounds of testing in the community, where residents believe that wide-spread contamination has caused a cancer cluster.

#### **OIG Issues Management Alert Regarding Communication at Amphenol Site in Franklin, Ind.**

**Key Message:** Region 5 is following the recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General in their June 27 management alert.

As part of their investigation into the effectiveness of risk communications at OLEM sites, OIG has recommended that Region 5 update the Cleanups in My Community website and any other relevant websites to correct the status of health and groundwater migration milestones for the Amphenol site.

## **OIG holds listening session at USS Lead Superfund site**

Key Message: About 40 people attended the Office of the Inspector General's June 26 listening session about risk communication at the USS Lead Superfund site, East Chicago, Ind. Participants also mentioned other sites in the area as being problematic, and raised complaints about EPA's inaction decades ago when USS Lead was an operating facility.

As part of their investigation into the effectiveness of risk communications at OLEM sites, EPA's OIG is holding as many as four listening sessions across the country to facilitate citizen feedback. Region 5 provided the OIG with data, files and other information about its technical work, community involvement program and communications. Region 5 staff have also attempted to clarify misinformation provided to the OIG by community members, in particular regarding the city's decision to demolish the public housing complex. Since the USS Lead site was added to the National Priorities List in 2009, EPA has conducted extensive outreach to the community.

## **Region 5 Issued Letter to City of Flint and State of Michigan Regarding Water Plant Staffing Levels**

Key Message: The June 26 letter follows up on EPA's on-going discussions with the city of Flint, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (MEGLE), and the state of Michigan regarding efforts to comply with EPA's emergency order.

Based on information provided to MEGLE, it appears that the Flint PWS does not have sufficient staff to sustain compliance and has created conditions that could lead to errors at the PWS that could affect public health. EPA has requested that the city provide information detailing how the city will demonstrate that the Flint PWS has the necessary, capable and qualified personnel on board so that the PWS is properly operated at all times. The letter also included an offer from the Region to engage in a dialogue with the city to address their staffing challenges. The Region is coordinating with OW on this aspect.

## **Region 5 Approves Illinois' Aquatic Life Uses and Criteria for Chicago Area Waterways System**

Key Message: On June 24, 2019, Region 5 issued an approval of new and revised aquatic life uses and water quality criteria applicable to the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS).

Despite ongoing habitat limitations, water quality and aquatic life in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River (LDPR) have improved significantly since these waterbodies were last evaluated by Illinois in the 1970s. On April 24, 2019, Illinois submitted revised water quality standards (WQS) for the CAWS to protect these improvements to EPA for review and approval. On June 24, EPA approved the WQS after determining that they met the requirements of the CWA.

## **Elevated Lead Levels in University Park, Ill., Drinking Water**

Key Message: A "Do Not Consume" advisory remains in effect in University Park, while Illinois EPA and Region 5 work to finalize criteria to lift the advisory in some areas of the city.



On Jan. 1, 2018, Aqua Illinois, drinking water servicer for University Park, switched its water source from ground water to surface water. Region 5 learned from Illinois EPA on June 17, 2019, of elevated lead levels at 15 homes (results ranging from 23 ppb to 800 ppb) in the University Park community. EPA remains in close contact with Illinois EPA and is receiving regular updates as the state works with the water utility to monitor lead levels, adjust treatment, and ensure that affected customers have access to safe drinking water.

Region 5 and Illinois EPA attended a public meeting on June 22. The meeting had 200+ residents in attendance and ran for more than 4 hours. Based on very preliminary data reviewed by ORD, it appears that the source of the high lead may be leaded solder. Region 5/ORD continue to provide Illinois EPA with technical assistance by reviewing incoming data and criteria to begin to lift the “Do Not Consume” advisory in some areas of the city.

### **Ethylene Oxide Ambient (EtO) Air Sampling in Lake County, Ill.**

Key Message: The Lake County Health Department has released several days of ambient EtO air sampling data, prompting congressional calls for EPA and state action.

The Lake County Health Department has released results from the first four days of its ambient EtO air monitoring campaign, which began on June 6, near the Vantage and Medline facilities. Elevated concentrations near Medline drew the attention of the Illinois congressional delegation, prompting letters to Governor Pritzker requesting "next steps that reflect the seriousness that this situation merits" and to Administrator Wheeler taking U.S. EPA to task for failing to conduct its own EtO monitoring in Lake County and demanding that U.S. EPA work with Lake county to analyze EtO data and hold community forums to educate the public. Rep. Schneider issued a press release calling for the shutdown of Medline. Medline is currently installing controls, with significant controls added after the last of the three sampling days reported to date.

### **EPA to Announce Initiation of Menominee River Delisting Process During Week of July 8**

Key Message: The Agency is ready to begin the process of removing the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern on Lake Michigan from a list of 43 toxic hotspots identified by the U.S. and Canada in the Great Lakes basin.

The announcement follows the removal of the final two remaining “beneficial use impairments” (BUIs) at the AOC. The Menominee River forms the boundary between northeast Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. This is a significant milestone for the AOC program as only four of the 31 U.S. based AOCs have been delisted to date. It is anticipated that this AOC may be delisted by the end of 2019. There will be an opportunity to amplify this accomplishment during a yet-to-be-planned public event.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

**Mich. Science Advisory Workgroup to Announce PFAS Recommendations**

Key Message: Michigan's Science Advisory Workgroup is under a July 1, 2019, deadline to develop PFAS health-based recommendations for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and is expected to release recommendations for 5-7 PFAS chemicals, including PFOA, PFOS and GenX.

On June 27, the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) Science Advisory Workgroup will make recommendations on health-based values for PFAS in drinking water at a public, joint meeting with the state's Environmental Rules Review Committee. MPART member agencies will review the recommendations and refer them to the Michigan EGLE as part of EGLE's rulemaking process to establish state drinking water standards for PFAS.

## **Region 6**

### Hot Topics:

#### **Mosaic Fertilizer LLC, St. James, Louisiana**

On June 25, 2019, LDEQ issued an administrative order requiring Mosaic to prevent and minimize potential threats from the release of process wastewater. Mosaic must evaluate all options for onsite or offsite disposal to reduce total process wastewater inventory and maintain adequate freeboard and surge capacity.

#### **Bird Creek Settlement, Osage County, Oklahoma**

The Final Settlement Agreement package is awaiting final concurrence by DOJ management before they forward it to the operators for signature. One operator has indicated they need the order completed immediately in order to complete the sale of their assets before a loan payment becomes due on June 28th.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

#### **Houston/Galveston/Brazoria 2008 Ozone Attainment, Texas**

By June 28, decision by HQ to finalize action to reclassify the HGB area from moderate to serious under the 2008 ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided comments and asked for additional time to submit the serious area SIP revision and asked that EPA delay finalization of the bump up to allow consideration of potential exceptional events during 2018, which if approved, the area would be meeting the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

#### **DFW 2008 Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan, Texas**

By June 28, decision by HQ to finalize action to bump up the DFW area from moderate to serious for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided both oral and written comments requesting that EPA delay the required serious SIP revision submission date from 12 months to 18 months.

#### **Texas Public Notice Provisions for Air Permits, Texas**

By July 8, EPA will propose final approval of revisions to Texas Public Notice provisions submitted in 2018. The revisions consolidate the public notice requirements for certain air quality permit applications and are consistent with federal requirements. No comments were received on the proposed rule.

#### **Albuquerque 1st Set of Air Permit SIP Revisions, New Mexico**

By July 10 Region 6 anticipates final approval of the first set of revisions to Albuquerque Air Permit SIP to remove conditional approval and convert conditionally approved air permit rules to full approval based on revision of rules.

#### **Texas Title V Petition Resolution Letter, Texas**

By July 12, EPA will respond to the state's June 2018 letter and subsequent discussions on how to resolve long-term EPA objections to Texas Title V air permits. OGC has provided a revised draft letter to Deputy AA of OAR on acceptability of draft response.

- July 16 Society of Texas Environmental Professionals, Grapevine, Texas
- July 17 Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- July 19 IOGCC Task Force Meeting, Denver, Colorado

## **Region 7**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **News Releases for Region 7 WasteWise Award Winners**

**Key Message:** EPA Recognizes 2018 WasteWise Winners for Diverting Over 356,000 Tons of Waste from Landfills

- OPA issued four regional press releases:
  - National Waste Wise Awardees in Region 7:
    - Mid-size Business Category - Partner of the Year: Perishable Distributors of Iowa–Ankeny, Iowa
    - Small Business Category - Partner of the Year: Urban Chesnut Brewing Company–St. Louis, Missouri
  - Region 7 Waste Wise Awardees:
    - Faultless Brands, Kansas City, Missouri
    - Northern Natural Gas, Omaha, Nebraska

#### **The State of Missouri has started remediation of 57 properties at the Big River Mine Tailings Site**

**Key Message:** The state of Missouri, under a Consent Decree with the EPA, has begun the remediation of 57 properties at the Big River Mine Tailings Site.

- Contractors with the state of Missouri began remediation of properties on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Four properties were remediated during the first week of work.
- Remediation activities are scheduled to be completed within 2 years.

#### **Big River Watershed Notices of Contamination Sent**

**Key Message:** During the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>, EPA Region 7 SEMD is mailing approximately 1,600 letters to property owners within the Big River 100-year floodplain to notify them of the likelihood of lead contamination in the river and floodplain and offer sampling.

- Federal, State, and Local stakeholders and elected officials have been coordinated with and notified of this mailing.
- In addition to notifying property owners of potential contamination and offering sampling, the letters are seeking to prevent the migration of contaminated soils from the river and floodplain to residential properties through sales of materials such as sod, soil, and gravel.
- In conjunction with the letters, EPA will be holding three public availability sessions on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> in communities along the river to present information and answer questions the community may have.
- Letters are being mailed to both residential and non-residential property owners within the floodplain. A final remedy has been selected for residential properties. Non-residential properties do not have a remedy selected; sampling for non-residential properties will be informational and help support the ongoing RI/FS efforts.

#### **Region 6 and Region 7 RA Site Tour in Tri-state Mining District**

**Key Message:** Joint RA site tour and meeting on Superfund site coordination between Regions 6 and 7, the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, and the Quapaw Nation.

- On June 27, a joint Region 6 and Region 7 RA tour of Kansas and Oklahoma Superfund sites within the Tri-State Mining District will be held.
- The tour will include the Cherokee County Superfund site in Region 7 and the Tar Creek Superfund site in Region 6.
- The site tour and following meeting between the two EPA regions, the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, and Quapaw Nation will include information on the sites and current coordination efforts, with a specific discussion on the implementation of the chat rule.
- The Chat Rule is a 2007 rule that allows for the use of washed chat in specific transportation and non-transportation purposes to allow for source reduction via responsible chat sales.

#### **Four State Director's Meeting**

Key Message: On June 25-26, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford and senior managers met with EPA Region 7's state environmental agency directors at the Four State Director's Meeting in Iowa.

**Region 8**Hot Topics:**OMB Review of the Uintah & Ouray (U&O) Draft Proposed Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Oil and Gas Sources**

On June 21 Region 8 staff, along with OAQPS and OP, had a call with OMB and DOJ to discuss DOJ's comments on the draft proposed U&O FIP, which was transmitted to OMB on May 17. DOJ offered five specific suggestions to improve the preamble language. No concerns were expressed with the draft by DOJ. OMB noted that they would be providing EPA consolidated interagency comments early next week. On June 26, OMB transmitted the reminder of the interagency compiled comments on the draft FIP proposed rule and the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) to EPA. The Region has begun reviewing the comments, which were comprised of 13 specific comments on the draft FIP and 20 specific comments on the RIA.

**Region 8 Submits Comments on the NPDES Permit for Aethon Energy in Wyoming**

On June 27, R8 submitted comments to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) on the proposed NPDES permit for Aethon Energy. The permit is being changed in part to reflect the proposed expansion of operations in the Moneta Divide Field. EPA's primary concerns are with development of effluent limits to protect water quality standards and development of technology-based effluent limits that meet federal regulations for oil and gas discharges. There is significant public interest in this permit and a challenge is likely.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Nothing to report this week.

**Region 9****Hot Topics:**

**Algal blooms:** Lake Cachuma, the main drinking water source for Santa Barbara and Goleta, is experiencing elevated levels of cyanotoxins from harmful algal blooms. Sampling at drinking water intakes shows diminishing concentrations in the lake. Goleta is implementing a comprehensive plan to modify source-water intake under these circumstances. The State Water Resources Control Board, our SDWA primacy agency, is assisting both cities' systems.

**Mexican Border:**

- a. We participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> summit of the Arizona-Mexico Commission in Phoenix on June 27, presenting Border 2020 accomplishments to the Environmental and Water Committee.
- b. Our upcoming Border 2020 request for proposals to be funded will be announced by the No. American Development Bank in early July.
- c. NADBank released the executive summary of an EPA-funded study to examine alternative remedies to reduce transboundary flows of sewage.
- d. We attended the Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting in Imperial Beach on June 26 to discuss a draft report on energy production and transportation in the Border region.
- e. We participated in a June 24 tour of San Diego border water infrastructure with U.S.-side mayors and IBWC colleagues, hosted for the benefit of the Mexican minister for foreign affairs at the invitation of Consul General Celorio.
- f. Lastly, we hosted a visit to our San Diego Border Office from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to understand one another's approach to Mexican Border program operations.

**Tribal drinking water:** we issued a SDWA Sec. 1431 order to the Grindstone Indian Rancheria to bring its public water system into immediate compliance with disinfection and operational requirements. We consulted with the Tribe, which had earlier received a consent order for the same purpose and worked closely with OECA. We are giving particular emphasis to tribal drinking water systems given EPA's direct implementation responsibility.

**Disaster Relief Funds:** we are working with OCFO to support preparation of the budget documents in response to the recent appropriation of disaster relief funds.

**Pesticides:** California announced release of its mobile application (CASPIR) for anonymously reporting pesticide incidents, concerns and potential violations with location-specific data. This app was supported in its development by \$100K in EPA funds. We are assisting the state with communications outreach in Spanish. [ [HYPERLINK "https://twitter.com/CA\\_Pesticides/status/1143933410827595777"](https://twitter.com/CA_Pesticides/status/1143933410827595777) ]. We received notice of yet another agricultural worker exposure, this from Fresno County, where up to 55 people may have been exposed via an aerial application, of whom 17 were reported as injured.

**Lead (Pb) cleanup:** after 7 years of sustained effort, we have completed our removal of contaminated soils from the town of Eureka, Nevada, where historic deposition from smelters left maximum concentrations at levels exceeding 100,000 ppm.

## **Region 10**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **Comments Due on Proposed Pebble Mine Draft EIS and Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit**

Comments are due to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District by July 1<sup>st</sup> on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Draft Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge and fill permit for the Proposed Pebble Mine in southwest Alaska. Region 10 is coordinating the agency's comments with the HQ Offices of Water, Policy and General Counsel.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:**

#### **Region 10 Co-Hosts Willamette River Toxics Reduction Partnership**

Region 10 and Oregon DEQ co-chaired a meeting of the Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership on June 26th in Portland, OR. The Partnership includes tribal, federal, state and local governments; NGOs; citizens; and other entities, who meet to share information on toxics reduction and assessment in the Willamette River above the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The June 26th meeting included information on Oregon State University's pesticide reduction technical assistance, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture toxics reduction and Columbia Slough Watershed Council work efforts.

#### **Comments Due on Jordan Cove Energy Liquefied Natural Gas and Pacific Connector Pipeline Projects in Oregon**

The EPA is serving as a cooperating agency on development of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Environmental Impact Statement for the JCPC project. Comments are due on the Draft EIS by July 5<sup>th</sup>. The proposed project would construct and operate a liquefied natural gas export terminal on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The terminal would be designed to liquefy approximately 1 billion cubic feet per day of LNG for export to foreign markets. The associated Pacific Connector pipeline would be about 229 miles long. The EPA is currently preparing comments on the Draft EIS. Concerns have been raised outside of the NEPA process by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. On May 6<sup>th</sup> ODEQ issued a decision to deny, without prejudice, Jordan Cove's application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. It is expected that the applicant will supply the additional requested information and reapply. FERC will conduct a series of public meetings in southern Oregon at the end of June.

#### **Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission**

Region 10 was requested to provide testimony on EPA's oil spill prevention program at a July 9th meeting of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission. The Commission has been directed by the Oregon Governor to write a report on how to improve the seismic resilience of the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in the Portland area which includes a number of large bulk oil storage facilities along the Willamette River. The Commission is looking at both state and federal agencies who may play a part in regulating facilities which are considered to be part of the CEI Hub and who could potentially be leveraged to help improve seismic resilience.



## **Office of Air and Radiation**

### Hot Topics:

#### **Packages for Signature:**

- Revision to Appendix P to 40 CFR Part 51, Concerning Minimum Emission Reporting Requirements in SIPs
- Stationary CI Engine NSPS Amendments (Direct Final and Proposal)
- Municipal Solid Waste Landfills RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Revision of Part 1 Registration Form Process for New and Modified True Minor Oil and Gas Sources in Indian Country

#### **Packages at OMB for Review:**

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 02/25/2019)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 03/21/2019)
- 2020 Ozone Depleting Substances Phaseout Rule (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 03/29/2019)
- Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 04/10/2019)
- RFS: Standards for 2020 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2021, Response to the Remand of the 2016 Standards, and Other Changes (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/06/2019)
- Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Modification of Statutory Volume Targets / RFS Reset (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Integrated Iron and Steel RTR (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/30/2019)
- Exceptional Events Guidance: Prescribed Fire on Wildland that May Influence Ozone and Particulate Matter Concentrations (Final Guidance; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Sources; Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah (Region 8 Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/23/2019)
- Guidance on Regional Haze State Implementation Plans for the Second Implementation Period (Final Guidance; RECEIVED DATE: 6/10/2019)
- Oil & Natural Gas Sector Emission Standards for new Reconstructed & Modified Sources Review (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 6/10/2019)

#### **Packages Heading to OMB Soon**

- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule)
- MSW Landfills Emission Guidelines Subpart Ba Requirements (Final Rule)
- Ethylene Production RTR (subparts XX & YY) (Proposed Rule)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)
- Organic Liquids Distribution (OLD) RTR (Proposed Rule)
- MON RTR (Proposed Rule)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule)

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Nothing to report this week.

## **Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention**

### Hot Topics:

#### **TSCA SACC Meeting to Be Announced in Federal Register Notice.**

EPA plans to publish a Federal Register Notice July 1 announcing a meeting of the Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (TSCA SACC). The Notice is anticipated to be publicly available on the Federal Register's public inspection website June 28. The SACC, which provides EPA independent advice and recommendations on the scientific basis for risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches for chemicals regulated under TSCA, will meet July 29-August 2. At the meeting it will review EPA's draft risk evaluations and associated documents for the cyclic aliphatic bromide cluster (HBCD) and 1,4-Dioxane. A preparatory, virtual meeting on the scope and clarity of the draft charge to the SACC will be held [ [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://11"](#) ].

#### **Safer Choice 2019 Awards**

On June 25, EPA notified Safer Choice Partners that the Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards application period is now open. The awards recognize leadership contributions of Partners and stakeholders who, over the past year, made outstanding achievements in the design, manufacture, selection, and use of products with safer chemicals. Submissions are due July 31. Award winners will be recognized at a ceremony this fall in Washington, DC.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

#### **Sulfoxaflor [INTERNAL]**

OPP plans to announce July 12 that EPA is restoring previously vacated uses for the insecticide sulfoxaflor, adding new uses, and removing certain application restrictions. In 2016, following the 9th Circuit Court decision to vacate sulfoxaflor's registration because of inadequate data on the effects on bees, EPA had reevaluated the data and approved registrations that did not include crops that attract bees. The current decision is informed by new data on the effects on bees and an integrated evaluation of the anticipated risks and benefits of these uses. EPA's risk assessment demonstrates that when used according to the required label directions, sulfoxaflor has no significant risk to human health and lower risk to non-target wildlife than the registered alternatives.

#### **Vietnam Glyphosate Technical Meeting**

July 15-18, AA Dunn and OPP's Rick Keigwin and Dr. Monique Perrin will join USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service officials on a trip to Hanoi, Vietnam to meet with government officials from the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other government agencies in Vietnam. They will discuss the U.S. pesticide regulatory process, the international impact of EPA's work, and the Vietnamese ban of glyphosate.

#### **BIO World Congress**

July 8, OPP's Mike Mendelsohn will participate in a panel on bio-pesticides/RNA interference (RNAi) at the BIO World Congress in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**Hot Topics:

On June 25, 2019, the House of Representatives passed, H.R. 3055, "Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020," as part of a larger omnibus by a vote of 277 Y/ 194 N. The agency's overall funding was increased by \$1 million to \$9.5 billion, which is \$678 million more than the FY 2019 Enacted Budget. Several amendments targeted the agency's funding within appropriations accounts as summarized in the CFO's June 26 e-mail to the agency's Senior Leaders. The Senate has not yet scheduled committee action on its version of the FY 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. OCFO will continue to monitor Congressional action and provide updates as needed.

OMB sent agencies the FY 2021 budget guidance memorandum on June 21. OCFO is scheduled to brief the Administrator on July 2.

OCFO is working with OW and OLEM to prepare an operating plan for the \$414 million Congress appropriated for EPA in the 2019 disaster supplemental. The operating plan is due to OMB on July 12 and Congress on July 22. The plan must include EPA's proposed allocations by appropriation, program project and state or territory.

OCFO continues to work with OCIR, OGC, and the programs to prepare responses to the SAC, HAC, and HEC QFRs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Last week, OCFO issued guidance and a draft agenda to agency Senior Leaders for the upcoming Senior Leadership Council Meeting the afternoon of July 17. The guidance included instructions and templates for updated or new multi-year resource planning proposals. Proposals are due by July 2 with AA concurrence. AA and RA designations of SLC meeting participants (a total of 2 per AAs/RA) are due no later than June 28 via a separate survey link the AAs/RAs received. OCFO is scheduled to brief the Administrator on July 12.

As follow up to June 24 briefing for the ADA, OCFO is preparing joint agency memo from the ADA and CFO on the transition to the automated bowling chart reports for FY 2020. Issuance is planned for the week of July 1.

Other:

On June 25, the CFO and agency leaders from AO and OGC participated in the OMB/EPA Strategic Review meeting to discuss senior leader strategic review/risk assessments of progress towards the objectives in the FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan. OMB was interested in EPA's significant risks, notably our perspective on human capital, and next steps to address our focus areas for improvement.

## Office of the Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

### Hot Topics:

Nothing to report this week.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

- **June 28-July 1**-The US Conference of Mayors-87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will convene in Honolulu, HI.
- **July 2**- Bipartisan staff briefing for House Energy and Commerce Committee/ Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on oil spill response planning
- **July 2** - HTI WRE staff meeting with WPT team
- **July 9** - EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) and OIR will co-host an E.O. 13132 (Federalism) consultation briefing for the Big 10 associations and state and local professional water groups to discuss the development of forthcoming national standards, required by the Clean Water Act (CWA) as amended by the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), regulating discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

## **Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**

### Hot Topics:

#### **Fuel Waiver Concerning Low Volatility Gasoline in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

On June 27, 2019, in response to a request from Allegheny County, EPA issued a third emergency fuel waiver to prevent the disruption of an adequate supply of gasoline after determining that an extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstance exists in Allegheny County as a result of a failure in the Buckeye Laurel Pipeline. Region 3 has approved a SIP amendment that will obviate the need for similar waivers in the future.

#### **District of Columbia Development Company and Owner Plead Guilty to Crimes Related to Lead-Based Paint**

On June 20, 2019, Mohammad Sikder pleaded guilty in the District of Columbia to two counts of violating the Toxic Substances Control Act for his role in renovating a Washington, D.C., property without following lead-safe work practices and lead disclosure requirements. Sikder's solely held company, District Properties LLC, also pleaded guilty to making false statements in 25 building permit applications to the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). These applications understated the age of the homes being renovated, with the intent to avoid regulatory scrutiny of inadequate lead-based paint safety measures at those properties. Lead poisoning continues to be a major environmental health problem in the United States. Sentencing is scheduled for November 22, 2019.

#### **Chemical Plant Manager Sentenced for Polluting a Tributary of the Chattahoochee River**

On June 25, 2019, Carlos Conde was sentenced for violating the Clean Water Act in the Northern District of Georgia. Conde, the plant manager, instructed employees at the Apollo Industries chemical processing plant in Smyrna, Georgia, to wash carburetor fluid, containing naphthalene, into a tributary of the Chattahoochee River. The carburetor cleaner turned the water milky white and opaque and killed the wildlife in the creek, including fish and frogs. Conde was sentenced to 12 months of probation with the first four months to be served as home detention and a \$2,000 fine.

#### **Air Force Central Regional Environmental Restoration Summit**

On June 26-27, 2019, OECA's Federal Facilities Enforcement Office participated in the Air Force Central Regional Environmental Restoration Summit in New Orleans, Louisiana. Topics included updates on EPA's PFAS Action Plan and an overview of EPA's national and regional cleanup policies and goals.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Nothing to report.

**Office of General Counsel**

Hot Topics:

***Valero Energy Corp. v. EPA*, No. 18-1028 (D.C. Cir filed June 25, 2019). New Decision**

The D.C. Circuit dismissed for lack of jurisdiction Valero Energy Corporation's challenge to EPA's Renewable Fuel Standards ("RFS") periodic reviews document. The document interpreted Clean Air Act section 211(o), which requires that EPA conduct periodic reviews of the RFS program. The court concluded that the document lacks legal effect, and therefore is not a reviewable final agency action. To be final, an agency action must be one "by which rights or obligations have been determined, or from which legal consequences will flow." The court found, however, that EPA's document simply interprets the statute, and imposes no obligations on any party or the agency. Even were the court to look at the practical effects, the document does not impose "immediate and practical burden" on regulated parties.

**New NOI**

By letter dated June 25, 2019, Ergon-West Virginia, Inc. (EWV) notified EPA of its intent to sue under CAA section 304(a)(2) for failure to perform a nondiscretionary duty to act on EWV's 2016, 2017 and 2018 small refinery petitions within 90 days of EPA's receipt of those petitions. EWV submitted these petitions to request that EPA exempt its small refinery from its RFS obligations for these compliance years.

## **Office of International and Tribal Affairs**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**

Administrator Wheeler joined representatives from Canada and Mexico at the CEC Council Session on June 24-25 in Mexico City. The Council Session celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the CEC and this year's theme focused on circular economy and resource efficiency, highlighting the work on marine litter and food waste.

#### **Mexico Bilateral Meeting**

The Administrator also participated in a bilateral meeting with the newly appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) Victor Toledo. The topics discussed during the meeting included the Border 2020 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program, Tijuana wastewater concerns and transboundary pollution, and marine litter.

#### **G20 Leaders' Declaration on Marine Litter**

OITA participated in a conference call with G20 Environment Senior Officials which was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. The purpose of the call was to discuss the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" statement on marine plastic litter in the draft Leaders' Declaration. Prime Minister Abe has emphasized that marine plastic litter will be one of the major issues to be discussed at the upcoming G20 Osaka Leaders Summit on June 28-29.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:**

July 8 - The Administrator will be meeting with One More Generation to discuss marine plastics litter.

July 8 - The Administrator will be meeting with National Tribal Caucus Executive Officers to discuss tribal priorities.

## **Office of the Land and Emergency Management**

### Hot Topics:

#### **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**

Interagency follow-up comments have been received on the CCR Phase 2 proposed rule package. Georgia's CCR permit program notice was signed by the Administrator on June 21, and FR publication is scheduled for June 28.

#### **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP)**

Distributed materials to the workgroup on June 24<sup>th</sup> for review prior to workgroup closure on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites**

We are working with Region 1 on Centredale, Region 4 on Oak Ridge, and Region 10 on Portland Harbor and Hanford. A briefing for the Administrator on Hanford is scheduled for June 28.

#### **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)**

We responded to OMB's comments on the electric power industries NPRM on June 25<sup>th</sup>. OMB review expected to conclude on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This rule has a court-deadline for signature of July 2, 2019.

#### **PFAS**

PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance. The public comment period concluded on June 10, 2019, and we are reviewing the comments received.

Working on inclusion as "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

- **Superfund Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL).** On June 28, OLEM will participate in the quarterly update of the AEL briefing with the Administrator.
- **Exemption for Air Releases from Animal Waste at Farms from EPCRA Final Rule.** The rule was published in the FR on June 13 and is effective July 15, 2019.



**Office of Mission Support**Hot Topics:**AFGE Contract Negotiations**

For over a year, the Agency has unsuccessfully attempted to bring AFGE to the bargaining table to negotiate an entirely new Master Collective Bargaining Agreement. AFGE has continuously asserted that only five articles – previously opened pursuant to 2013 Ground Rules – are subject to negotiation. Last week, the Union “decline[d] to negotiate new ground rules,” which would have been a predicate to negotiations over a new contract. After the Union’s clear refusal to bargain, the agency provided the Union with a new contract to replace in its entirety the 2007 MCBA. The Agency intends to implement the new contract on July 8, 2019.

**Executive Order on Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees**

OMS is partnering with the Office of Policy to respond to the June 14 Executive Order on Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees. The EO requires agencies to terminate at least one-third of their current committees established under section 9(a)(2) of FACA. OMS is working with OP to collect extensive information on EPA’s 22 advisory committees for senior leadership. OMS and OP are coordinating to meet OMB’s August 1 deadline to report on the identified committees.

**EPA.gov Adopts the U.S. Web Design System 2.0 Guidelines**

USWDS provides a library of code, tools, and guidance to help government teams design and build fast, accessible, mobile-friendly government websites. To incorporate the USWDS 2.0 guidelines, EPA is updating the EPA.gov Web standards and guidance that set how EPA.gov looks and feels. Incorporating those guidelines will help increase the speed and ease of creating useful, consistent digital services.

**Employee Viewpoint Survey**

As of June 26, 2019, the governmentwide response rate is 35%. EPA has attained an overall response rate of 57.4% with Region 6 leading the pack at 78.8%. EVS closed on June 27, 2019.

**OPM Human Capital Management Evaluation**

The upcoming OPM Human Capital Management Evaluation is scheduled for August 5-9, 2019. The evaluation will review activity during the time period October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019; focus areas will include strategic planning talent management and performance management.

**Executive Resources Board**

The summer ERB meeting has been rescheduled for July 18, 2019. The meeting convenes the first 2019 Executive Resources Board and welcomes new members. The full membership was recently approved by the Administrator. The ERB is chaired by the OMS PDAA.

**Presidential Management Council Interagency Rotations Program (OMS Pilot)**

The OHR Training Branch has received 12 rotation and six participant requests. The PMC Interagency Rotation Program provides opportunities for GS-13 through GS-15 employees to expand their management skills, broaden their organizational experience and foster networks they can leverage in the future. The program provides each participant an interagency rotation assignment to help develop and enhance specific leadership competencies. Agencies willing to provide rewarding rotational assignment help in cultivating a rising generation of executive talent, building a pipeline of emerging leaders who possess a broad understanding of varied agency missions and reducing barriers to

interagency mobility. The ideal rotational assignment is one that will stretch and develop high-potential employees during their rotation.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

**EPA's National Honor Awards Ceremony**

The EPA's National Honor Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium Hall of the Ronald Reagan and International Trade Building in Washington, DC. The Administrator will be presenting the awards, which recognize a distinguished or exceptional employee or group of employees for achievements in 2018. A reception for award recipients will be held in the Atrium of the Ronald Reagan and International Trade Building immediately following the ceremony.

**Office of Policy****Hot Topics or Upcoming Major Decisions or Events****XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting**

Office of Federal Activities staff will join the US delegation in Prague, Czech Republic, July 1 – 11, at this annual meeting to make decisions regarding the implementation of the Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol.

**National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) meeting**

As early as July 1st, the Federal Register will publish a notice of a NEJAC public teleconference meeting scheduled for August 14, 2019.

**Active Interagency Reviews from OMB**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>EPA Internal Due Date</b>	<b>OMB Due Date</b>
HHS/FDA NOA (Pass-back): Advice About Eating Fish: For Women Who Are or Might Become Pregnant, Breastfeeding Mothers, and Children over 2 years, From EPA and FDA; Revised Fish Advice; Availability	06/27/2019	06/27/2019
DOD/ACE RGL: Timeframes for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Clarification of Waiver Responsibility	06/27/2019	06/28/2019
FAR NPRM: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus - FAR Case 2018-021	07/01/2019	07/02/2019
DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Pipeline Safety: Amendments to Parts 192 and 195 to Require Valve Installation and Minimum Rupture Detection Standards	07/11/2019	07/12/2019
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers	N/A	N/A

**Documents Sent to the OFR from June 21-27, 2019**

<b>FRL #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Sent to FR</b>
9995-97-Region 3	District of Columbia: Existing Nonattainment New source Review (NNSR) Program Meets the Requirements for the Implementation of the 2008 Ozone NAAQS	06-27-2019
9995-66-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Columbus, Ohio Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard	06-27-2019
9994-93-OCSPP	Valifenolate; Pesticide Tolerances	06-26-2019
9994-62-OCSPP	Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-1.F)	06-26-2019
9995-49-OCSPP	Review of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and the Definition of Lead-Based Paint	06-26-2019
9995-77-Region 10	Idaho: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions	06-26-2019
9995-40-OCSPP	Draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Risk Evaluations and TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meetings; Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster (HBCD) and 1,4-Dioxane; Notice of Availability and Public Meetings	06-26-2019
9995-65-OAR	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Certification and Compliance Requirements for Nonroad Spark-Ignition Engines (Renewal), ICR 1695.11, OMB 2060-0338	06-26-2019
9995-64-OCSPP	Pesticides; Draft Revised Method for National Level Endangered Species Risk Assessment Process for Biological Evaluations of Pesticides; Extension of Comment Period	06-26-2019
9995-57-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Sulfur Dioxide Ambient Air Quality Standards	06-26-2019
9995-60-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revocation of Kansas City Area Transportation Conformity Requirements Plans	06-26-2019
9995-76-OCSPP	Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals under TSCA Section 6(h)	06-26-2019
9995-91-Region 1	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the U.S. Coast Guard	06-26-2019

	(USCG) Buoy Depot of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station Superfund Site	
9988-64-OMS	Lead Training, Certification, Accreditation and Authorization Activities (Renewal)/ICR 2507.03	06-25-2019
9995-71-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Boston Metropolitan Area, Lowell, Springfield, Waltham, and Worcester Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan	06-25-2019
9995-56-OP	National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Notification of Public Teleconference and Public Comment	06-25-2019
9995-75-OCSPP	Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards Call for Submissions	06-25-2019
9995-80-OMS	NSPS for Steel Plants: Electric Arc Furnaces and Argon Oxygen Decarburization Vessels (Renewal)/ICR 1060.18	06-25-2019
9995-86-OA	Notification of a Closed Meeting of the Science Advisory Board's 2019 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee	06-25-2019
9995-82-OLEM	Georgia: Approval of State Coal Combustion Residuals Permit Program	06-25-2019
9995-87-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	06-25-2019
9995-88-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; West Virginia; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	06-25-2019
9995-36-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report	06-24-2019
9995-44-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Minor New Source Review (NSR) Preconstruction Permitting Program Revisions	06-24-2019
9995-59-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; KY; Attainment Plan for Jefferson County SO2 Nonattainment Area	06-24-2019
9995-81-OMS	EPA's WasteWise Program/ICR 1698.10	06-24-2019

9995-27-OCSP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions; Residues of Pesticide Chemicals In or On Various Commodities (May 2019)	06-24-2019
9985-41-OCSP	Ethiprole; Pesticide Tolerances	06-21-2019
9995-50-Region 1	Change of Address for Region 1 Reports; Technical Correction	06-21-2019
9995-07-OMS	NESHAP for Prepared Feeds Manufacturing (Renewal)/ICR 2354.05	06-21-2019
9995-12-OMS	NESHAP for Area Sources: Primary Copper Smelting, Secondary Copper Smelting, and Primary Nonferrous Metals-Zinc, Cadmium, and Beryllium (Renewal)/ICR .2240.06	06-21-2019
9995-45-OMS	NSPS for Pressure Sensitive Tape and Label Surface Coating Operations (Renewal)/ICR 0658.13	06-21-2019
9995-72-OMS	NESHAP for Plastic Parts and Products Surface Coating (Renewal)/ICR 2044.07	06-21-2019
9995-73-OMS	NESHAP for Clay Ceramics Manufacturing, Glass Manufacturing, and Secondary Nonferrous Metals Processing Area Sources (Renewal)/ICR 2274.06	06-21-2019
9995-24-Region 8	Proposed Approval of Revisions to the State Air Pollution Control Rules; South Dakota; Proposed Approval of Revisions to the Permitting Rules for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration	06-21-2019
9995-69-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Revisions to NOx SIP Call and CAIR Rules	06-21-2019

**Office of Research and Development**Hot Topics:**CyAN Mobile App Available to the Public**

EPA's CyAN app is a free, easy-to-use mobile application that provides access to algal bloom satellite data for over 2,000 of the largest lakes and reservoirs across the United States. It is designed for use on Android™ devices (versions 4.2-8.0) and is now available for download on Google Play™. EPA scientists developed the app to help local and state water quality managers make faster and better-informed management decisions related to cyanobacterial blooms. For more information and to download the app, visit [ [HYPERLINK](#)

"file:///C:/Users/ahackel/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/WT5PFL3E/www.epa.gov/water-research/cyanapp" ]. The research that led to the development of the CyAN app was conducted in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Technical Support to Rhode Island on Using the New CyAN Mobile Application**

ORD continues to provide technical assistance to the Rhode Island Department of Management (DEM) in support of the state's effort to use ORD's CyAN mobile app to collect information about harmful algal blooms in Rhode Island waters. Last summer, ORD worked with DEM staff to beta test the app. The state is now asking for assistance in implementing the app as part of summer 2019 lake monitoring efforts. ORD is working with DEM staff to set up and use the final version of the app, to provide training, and to perform regular evaluation of the app's performance in the field.

**Assisting Illinois with Lead in Drinking Water**

Region 5 requested ORD experts provide technical support to the State of Illinois and the community of University Park (a Chicago suburb). The City recently found high lead levels in homes during routine Lead & Copper Rule sampling, and the utility has issued a Do Not Drink order. ORD is providing support on corrosion control treatment and sampling to the City and its utility, via Region 5.

**Supporting Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) – Request for Applications**

The SBIR Request for Applications opened on June 13 and will remain open through July 31. The SBIR Program helps small businesses to develop and commercialize innovative technology solutions to environmental issues. This year's solicitation is focused on topics in six broad areas including clean and safe water, air quality, land revitalization, homeland security, sustainable materials management and safer chemicals. SBIR projects are funded in 2 phases, with Phase I being "proof of concept" and Phase II being "development and commercialization" of the technology. Commercialization of the technology is stressed in both phases. EPA provides expert one-on-one commercialization assistance for each project starting with in-person consultations at the Phase I kick-off meeting.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:**International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation's (ICCR) Workshop on Chemical Risk Assessment and Non-animal Approaches**

On July 11-12, ORD's Dr. Russell Thomas will participate in the invite-only ICCR workshop focusing on the next generation of chemical risk assessment principles and their application to decision making. He will present three case studies describing how non-animal approaches have been used to complete an exposure-led risk assessment. Participants will discuss how applying these non-animal approaches

to chemical risk assessments can inform decision making as well as gaps in these approaches that may need to be filled in order to use for decision making.

**Office of Water**

Hot Topics:

**Webinar Series with USDA Private Sector Financing Solutions for Nutrient Reductions**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the EPA and USDA co-hosted the second of a four-part webinar series on federal grants and innovative financing options for reducing nutrients titled “Innovative Financing Strategies for Reducing Nutrients Webinar Series: Private Sector Financing Solutions for Nutrient Reductions.” More than 660 participants joined the first webinar on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and over 300 participated in the second webinar. Speakers highlighted strategies including environmental impact bonds, program-related investments, and performance-based strategies using public-private financing. Two more webinars will be held in July.

**Stormwater Finance Task Force Workgroup**

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the EPA’s Environmental Financial Advisory Board will hold the first in-person meeting for its Stormwater Finance Task Force Workgroup at the EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. This closed meeting will begin to work under America’s Water Infrastructure Act to form a task force to analyze existing stormwater infrastructure funding and financing efforts, successes, and areas for improvement for these existing efforts, and provide recommendations on future stormwater infrastructure funding and financing.